

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re application of	)	METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR
	)	ENCODING A PRODUCT CODE
Huggett et al.	)	
	)	Group Art Unit:
Serial No.:	)	
	)	Examiner:
Filing Date:	)	

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231  
Box: Patent Application

Dear Sir:

Please amend claim 11 and 16 as follows:

**CLEAN VERSION OF CLAIMS**

11. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said second dimension encoder means includes a further Hamming parity generator connected to receive output from said extended Hamming parity generator so as to produce said parity elements of said second dimension systematic block code and, preferably, said second dimension encoder means also includes a further extended Hamming parity generator adapted to receive output from said further Hamming parity generator so as to produce said encoded product code.

16. (Amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim 14, wherein said second dimension encoder means comprises  $n_x$  encoders each producing a total of  $n_y$  second dimension encoded elements from  $k_y$  input data elements or first dimension parity elements.

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REMARKS

In view of the amendments made to the subject application, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 12/19/01

D. S. Rupert  
Douglas S. Rupert  
Reg. No. 44,434

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Mindy Fitch

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**APPENDIX**

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**

Please amend claim 11 and 16 as follows:

11. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim[,], 1, wherein said second dimension encoder means includes a further Hamming parity generator connected to receive output from said extended Hamming parity generator so as to produce said parity elements of said second dimension systematic block code and, preferably, said second dimension encoder means also includes a further extended Hamming parity generator adapted to receive output from said further Hamming parity generator so as to produce said encoded product code.

16. (Amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim 14 [or 15], wherein said second dimension encoder means comprises  $n_x$  encoders each producing a total of  $n_y$  second dimension encoded elements from  $k_y$  input data elements or first dimension parity elements.